

Fighting Terror...Finding Peace

Bagram Bullet

Vol. 1, No. 26 Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan September 23, 2005

Good To Know

■ **Travel vouchers** — Airmen needing to submit an interim travel voucher should visit virtual MPF online or e-mail stephen.gregory@cjtf76.centcom.mil.

■ **Mail/post office** — Drop boxes for mailing letters are available on the north side of Hut 86 and PAX terminal. Outgoing mail must have a return address. Incoming and outgoing mail should not include your rank.

■ **Free laundry service** — Camp Cunningham residents can drop off their laundry by 10 a.m. local on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Hut 720. People can drop off up to 20 items, which includes the drop-off bag, and should bring with them a filled-out [DA Form 2886](#).

3-Day Forecast

Friday

Scattered PM
thunderstorms
H 88/L 61



Saturday

Scattered PM
thunderstorms
H 88/L 61



Sunday

Haze
H 86/L 61



Photo by Capt. James H. Cunningham

Airmen 1st Class Matthew Fredette, 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron, conducts an intake and exhaust inspection on an EC-130.

Airpower key to success of landmark Afghan elections

by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Supporting Afghanistan's Sept. 18 National Assembly elections from the skies by deterring and disrupting attacks on the ground will be a major focus as airpower blankets the country for the duration of the election process.

U.S. Air Force A-10s and EC-130s and U.S. Navy EA-6Bs based at Bagram have stepped up efforts to provide safe and secure conditions as the elections bring Af-

ghanistan one step closer to democracy.

Lt. Col. Dave Evans, Operation Enduring Freedom Air Component Coordination Element plans officer here, said airpower will be a major factor to the success of the elections and follow-on political process.

"We'll maintain a sizeable airpower presence throughout the country to ensure the voting and ballot counting processes goes as smooth as possible," said Colonel Evans.

— See 'Airpower', Page 3



Take advantage of earning more money while deployed

by **Capt. Patrick Sampsell**
208th Finance Battalion

Do you remember when you were young being told "nothing good is ever free," and "if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is"?

The U.S. government offers any servicemember serving in a designated combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or directly supporting of a combat zone, an opportunity to participate in a savings program that is free, guaranteed and fully backed by the U.S. government.

Whether active duty, Reserve or National Guard, servicemembers are eligible to contribute up to \$10,000 to a no-risk, no-fee, program that pays 10 percent annual interest, compounded quarterly. Moreover, they can leave funds in the program for up to 90 days after redeployment and the account will continue to draw interest.

Servicemembers are able to contribute to their Savings Deposit Program account on a monthly basis. The maximum amount per month is limited to the individual's unallotted income, the amount remaining after the collection and payment of all existing taxes, allotments and debt obligations. Deposits to the program made on or before the 10th of the month accrue interest from the 1st of the month. Deposits made after the 10th of the month accrue interest from the first day of the following month.

Servicemembers are able to make deposits into the program after serving 30 consecutive days in a designated area or by spending one day per month for three consecutive months in a designated area.

To establish an account, visit the local finance office with a current Leave and Earnings Statement and make a deposit by cash, check or money order.

With an appropriate power of attorney, outside parties can make deposits into the program, as long as it does not exceed the servicemember's monthly disposable income.

There are limitations on when the money may be withdrawn. It is intended that deposits made remain in the program at least until the person redeployes or moves.

Withdrawals are limited during the time within the designated area to those necessary to preserve the health or welfare of the servicemember or their family. Additionally, any interest accruing in the account which causes the account to exceed \$10,000 may be withdrawn quarterly. Money must be withdrawn within 90 days of exiting the designated area. Interest will be accrued for as long as 90 days after redeployment.

After 90 days, the money no longer accrues interest, but no penalties will be assessed either.

The balance of the account will automatically be sent to the

address provided by the account holder. To stop the allotment for the program, people must submit a [DD Form 2558](#) upon arrival at home station.

The program provides a safe, no risk opportunity for servicemembers to earn a considerable interest benefit while serving in a combat zone, qualified hazardous duty area, or while participating in certain contingency operations directly supporting a combat zone.

Don't confuse this with the [Thrifty Savings Plan](#) (TSP). TSP is available to everyone in the military. The Savings Deposit Program is available only to those serving in designated combat zones.

Although federal income earned in hazardous duty zones is tax-free, interest accrued on earnings deposited into the SDP is taxable. Members can designate the allotment amount in five-dollar increments.

The savings program is not new -- it provided Vietnam veterans a way to earn extra money while on their Southeast Asia tours.

The DoD reopened the program to Desert Storm troops in 1991, and extended it to troops in Bosnia in 1996. The program was further expanded in 1997, 2001 and 2003.

For more information visit the shared drive at [S:\SHARED FILES\455 AEW PA NEWS, INFO\Deployed Investment Opportunities](#), contact your finance office or log onto <http://www.afrc.af.mil/914aw/Wing/Family%20Support/SDP.htm>. (The 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs contributed to this article.)



Bagram Bulletin Editorial Staff, Disclaimer

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Airpower

From Page 1

Close-air support

A-10s from Pope Air Force Base, N.C. and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., provided close air support to ground troops and shows of presence for Afghan voters.

Lt. Col. Jeff "Duck" Cowan, commander of the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron here said his "World-Famous Flying Tigers" are doing what it takes to support ground operations.

"We increased our capabilities to fully support this historic event," said the colonel, a native of Pittsburgh, Penn. "We've strategically positioned ourselves throughout Afghanistan to ensure the success of this election process."

Electronic protection

EC-130Hs from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., and EA-6Bs from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Wash., are providing electronic protection for friendly forces as well as those participating in the elections.

Lt. Col. Chuck Schnarr, commander of the 41st Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron here, said the EC-130H crews and support personnel who've been deployed here for more than 540 days -- are making an impact on the future of Afghanistan.

"It's fascinating that the Afghan people have been and continue to be excited about voting

despite the dangers involved," Colonel Schnarr said. "Our mission is to alleviate some of those concerns and ensure success in these historic elections and beyond."

Cmdr. Jay "Tank" Johnston, commander of Electronic Attack Squadron 134 out of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Wash., said "this is the 'Garudas' second deployment to Afghanistan. They are leveraging this experience to optimize operations in support of the elections and Operation Enduring Freedom."

"We're in the skies providing an umbrella of protection by providing electronic jamming support to ground troops and voters -- I'm pretty proud of how well our aircrew and Sailors have performed during these intense operations" said Cmdr. Johnston.

Making history

An aircrew member and a crew chief gave their thoughts on their contributions to bringing democracy to Afghanistan by supporting the country's election process from above.

"I feel very privileged to be a part of this moment in history," said 1st Lt. Jeremy Smith, EC-130 mission crew commander for the 41st EECS, a native of Fairborn, Ohio. "As a squadron, we're certainly proud to support our forces on the ground as well as the voters in this election process."

"Without airpower, I believe the elections wouldn't be as successful," said Senior Airman Earlay Haag, A-10 crew chief from Pope Air Force Base, N.C. "The presence of A-10s and other aircraft in the region are helping keep the terrorists away."

The commander of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, as well as director of the Air Component Coordination Element at Bagram, expressed how proud he was of everyone executing this mission as a team.

"Airpower is and will continue to play a vital role in the election process," said Brig. Gen. Bruce Burda. "Our A-10, EC-130 and EA-6B crews, along with many coalition partners, are doing a fantastic job supporting the Afghan and coalition ground forces who are working so hard to ensure the elections are completed in an open and credible manner."

"This is a team effort and I can't say enough about the job our folks are doing," the general said. "They are truly helping to make history here in Afghanistan and the region."



Photo by Capt. James H. Cunningham
Senior Airman Nathan Albers refuels an A-10 Thunderbolt II on the Bagram flightline.



Photos by Capt. James H. Cunningham

Times of change

[Above] Airman 1st Class George Castro, 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, helps Brig. Gen. Bruce Burda, 455th AEW commander, cut the birthday cake celebrating the U.S. Air Force's 58th birthday. [Right] General Burda passes the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group guidon to the group's new commander, Col. Wally Scales.



SECDEF: Successful elections prove critics wrong

by Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

The successful parliamentary elections in Afghanistan on Sunday have proven wrong all critics of U.S. efforts in that country, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a Pentagon news briefing Tuesday.

Critics of the war in Afghanistan were not just wrong, they were harmful because they made the cause seem hopeless, Mr. Rumsfeld said.

The millions of Afghan citizens who turned out to vote proved them wrong, and terrorists were

not able to affect the elections, he said.

"Terrorists have done everything in their power to try to intimidate the millions of Afghan voters and the literally thousands of candidates from participating in their elections," he said. "And they failed this week."

The magnitude of what happened in Afghanistan should not be ignored, Mr. Rumsfeld said.

A country that was host to Osama bin Laden and terrorist training camps and endured decades of civil war, Soviet occupation, drought and Taliban brutality is now a democracy that fights

terrorists, the SECDEF said.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq will be looked back on with perspective, Mr. Rumsfeld noted.

"(History) will not be (about) the daily violence or short-term setbacks, nor which person won the battle for a daily headline by predicting doom and gloom over and over," he said. "Instead, it will show that the battle in Afghanistan and Iraq is tough and ugly to be sure, but that America was on freedom's side. And it will remember the millions of people who have been freed and the hundreds of thousands who helped them achieve that freedom."

Know General Order No. 1, its amendments while you're here

Do you know what [General Order No. 1](#) and its amendments (GO1A) cover and why? Why should you be concerned with what the GO1As cover?

GO1As were created to help leadership maintain good order and discipline in a deployed environment, foster good relations with our host nations and allies, and ensure our mission gets accomplished successfully.

Each military member must follow all GO1As. To ensure these orders are followed, GO1As are punitive, meaning violations are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

You were briefed on GO1As prior to arrival and upon arrival. In addition, you have access to review the GO1As through your chain of command and/or online.

The U.S. Central Command, Central Air Forces, and Combined Joint Task Force 76 all have separate GO1As. Additionally, the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing and 455th Expeditionary Operations Group each have general operating instructions (GOIs), which provide additional guidance for standards of conduct.

Let's first review the GO1As, and then review the GOIs.

This article is not meant as a substitute for these specific documents; instead, it's meant to cover a few provisions of the GO1As.

Amendments to General Order No. 1

Each person deployed here is individually responsible for knowing what the entire GO1A covers. Many GO1A prohibitions are the same for CENTCOM and CENTAF, which include:

- Entering a mosque by non-Muslims for other than military purposes;
- Introduction, possession, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of alcohol beverages;
- Introduction, purchase, possession, use, sale, transfer, manufacture, or consumption of controlled substances or drug paraphernalia;
- Introduction, possession, transfer, sale, creation, or display of pornographic or sexually explicit photographs, video tapes, movies, drawings, books, magazines, or similar representations (if you can buy the item at the BX/PX in theater, then it is acceptable);
- Gambling of any kind, including sports pools, lotteries and raffles;
- Removing, possessing, selling, defacing, or

destroying archeological artifacts or national treasures;

- Selling, bartering, or exchanging any currency other than at the official host-nation exchange rate
- Adopting pets or mascots;
- Proselytizing (attempting to convert another to your religion) of any religion, faith, or practice;
- Taking or retaining individual souvenirs or trophies (with few exceptions);

General Order No. 1

Additional prohibitions are laid out by the 455th AEW GOI. The 455th EOG GOI basically mirrors the prohibitions in the wing GOI. These prohibitions include, but are not limited to:

- Males shall not enter female lodging B-huts and females shall not enter male lodging B-huts, except on official business as directed by commanders/first sergeants;
- Do not litter; keep common areas neat and clean, graffiti is prohibited in Camp Cunningham (do not write on the bathroom stalls/walls);
- Water conservation: one load of laundry per week and combat showers are required;
- Quiet hours in the B-hut areas are 24-hours-a-day;
- All camp members are required to participate in mandatory camp clean-up details;
- Candles or other self-burning devices are not allowed in or around the B-huts;
- Food items are not to be left uncovered in the B-huts;
- Brushing your teeth is not authorized anywhere other than latrines or shower facilities;
- Urinating anywhere other than latrines is strictly prohibited; and
- B-hut spaces must be kept in good order and present a professional appearance.

You are required to know all prohibitions in GO1As and GOIs, not just the ones above.

Good order and discipline are the bedrocks and center of our military way of life, are integral to the core values of the U.S. Air Force, and are central to successful mission accomplishment.

If you have any questions about GO1As, GOIs, or if you are unsure if something falls under these documents, call the 455th ABW Legal office at 231-3251 or visit the legal office on the first floor of the 455th Operations Group Headquarters. (*Courtesy of the 455th AEW Legal office*)

Air Force claims third softball title in four years

by Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
Air Armament Center Public Affairs

The leader of the All-Air Force Men's Softball Team knew it was going to take more than talent alone to claim the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Softball Championship at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

But after claiming the title with a 7-2 record during the three-day round-robin tournament Sept. 7-9, the four-time head coach now believes it may have come down to a little astrology.

"The stars and moon were lined up in the right direction for us this time, and we were real fortunate," said Steve Shortland, the team's head coach. "This tournament was such a nail-biter."

The tournament championship is the Air Force's second consecutive title and its third in four years.

"Our big thing is team, team, team," Shortland said. "We had veterans producing, rookies producing, and we used them all in different situations throughout the tournament. Everything really paid off for us."

The All-Marine Corps Softball Team grabbed second place with a 6-3 record while the All-Army Softball Team snagged third with a 4-5 record. Coming in fourth was the All-Navy Softball Team with a 1-8 record.

On paper it may appear as though Air Force had an easy run to the championship, but it actually dropped its opening game of the tournament to Navy, 7-6.

From there the Air Force rebounded with a 14-7 win over



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Christopher Markey slides into home as Army catcher Daniel Davis applies the tag during the 2005 Armed Forces Men's Softball Championships. Markey was safe.

the Army, generally considered one of the top teams in the tournament.

"There's a lot of parity, and these teams are truly indicative of what their services offer," Shortland said. "The competition is great."

Air Force continued its rebound by hammering the Marines 25-3 in the nightcap, ending day one at 2-1.

The Air Force team continued its roll on day two of the tournament, defeating Army in their second match-up, 12-5. But a hard dose of reality came in the afternoon via the Marines in a 6-5 loss.

At that point, Air Force, Army and Marines were all 3-2 with Navy at 1-4. The tournament championship was still up for grabs, and Shortland had to get the team focused.

The team listened and sunk the

Navy 11-3 that evening, while the Marines defeated the Army 8-6. Those two wins set up a showdown between the two 4-2 teams the morning of Sept. 9.

The Air Force team went on to defeat the Marines in the next game 13-4.

"We pulled together when we needed to," said James Flagg, Air Force outfielder.

With the title decided, Air Force came out relaxed the evening of Sept. 9 for its final game against Army.

They took an early lead but found themselves down in the bottom of the seventh. But Flagg nailed a three-run to win the game, 15-12.

"Everyone would like to walk through a tournament, but the added drama does make it sweet," Markey said. "It was a total team effort."

www.americasupportsyou.mil

Americans send messages of support, thanks

Dear Protectors of Freedom: I am so glad to have this opportunity to personally thank you for your tremendous sacrifice.

I firmly believe your efforts are absolutely vital to protecting our freedom and you are doing an awesome job. I thank God for you every day and pray for your protection.

Lois Smyth, Lawrenceburg, Ind.

My heartfelt thanks go to you as you put your lives on the line so we are able to continue our way of life.

I cannot imagine living anywhere but the United States of America and I appreciate your sacrifices and those of your families to protect and keep us safe.

Because of you I can sleep at night, get up in the morning and pursue my career and spend weekends with my family.

May God keep you safe and sound and bring you home to your loved ones. God speed!

Maggie Osborne, Marietta, Ga.

Every day I thank God for each one of YOU, my prayers are with you as you selflessly serve to defend our country both at home and abroad.

Please know that every true American supports you and loves you. We know and understand freedom isn't free!

Please accept my heartfelt "THANKS" for being willing to pay the price as you serve in harm's way.

May God bless you and keep you safe from every evil.

Suzy, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Sometimes we back home get so wrapped up in making a dollar or going about our daily activities that we forget that it is you who make it possible to keep what we make and enjoy our freedom to have diverse opinions without being tossed in jail.

You have accomplished much and we are so proud of you. You are truly heroes.

Our prayers are constant for your safe return home. Love and hugs.

Janis Galatas, Meridian, Miss.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Because of the great sacrifice you make serving in a far off land, every American can feel safer.

My family and I deeply appreciate all you do and support your effort 110 percent!

Please don't get discouraged when you hear people say support is faltering.

The vast majority of Americans understand how important your mission is and we will stand with you until that mission is completed.

Once again, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Dino J. Barbine, Norristown, Penn.

God Bless all of you and what you are doing to keep my freedom!

I know that it can take a toll on all of you, but you are the reason why our country is a free country. you are the backbone, the strength that holds this country together.

With God's help, we will keep our freedom. Please keep your watchful eye on us, as God has and come home safely.

Keep your fellow partner in the field in your sight that they also come home safely to their families as well. We love and support you.

Sharon Smith, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Dear Brave American: Thank you for stepping forward when our great country needed you.

We, the grateful American citizens, pray for your safety and victory, and we will forever be indebted to you and all of the troops who are fighting for the freedom of the world.

May God bless you and keep you from harm.

Rich Phelps, Sausalito, Calif.

May God bless and keep safe all the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Your willingness to serve is appreciated by all Americans.

It is through your courage and humanity that we as a nation are recognized as the greatest nation on the planet.

I pray for the safe return of all the brave men and women serving there and all over the globe.

Ron Abigill, Mt. Airy, Md.





Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

In remembrance

[Above] A young boy lays an American flag on a 9/11 memorial marker Sunday at Arlington National Ceremony in Virginia as part of a Patriot Day observance ceremony honoring the victims and families of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. [Left] Patriotic and sentimental symbols of a nation's gratitude are left behind at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., as prisoners of war and those missing in action are remembered Sept. 16 during national POW/MIA Recognition Day.

ENDURING FAITH CHAPEL

WORSHIP SERVICES

Gospel

Sundays 1300 to 1430Z

Jewish

Fridays 1430 to 1530Z

Korean Protestant

Sundays 1115 to 1215Z

Latter Day Saints

Sundays 0830 to 0930Z

Liturgical Protestant

Sundays 0400 to 0500Z

Muslim

Fridays 1330 to 1530Z

Seventh Day Adventist

Saturdays 0500Z

Protestant

Sundays 0700Z

Roman Catholic

Saturdays 1515Z

Sundays 0530Z

OTHER SERVICES, MEETINGS

Catholic Mass

Weekdays 0700Z

Chapel Cleanup

Saturdays 0630 to 0800Z

Gospel Bible Study

Thursdays 1430Z

Noon Day Prayer

Weekdays 0745Z

Promise Keeper's Men's

**Fellowship (conference room
on second floor of base ops)**

Wednesdays 1500Z

PRAYER REQUESTS

Visit the chapel offices, which are located near the Dragon DFAC (dining facility), or call 231-4755.

Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan